

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

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DOD/ISA/FMRA:MR. GOLDSMITH

OPNAV 61:RADM BARROW (INFO)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: SOLAR OBSERVATORY NETWORK

REFS: A. STATE 245137 (1974)

B. CANBERRA 6535 (1974)

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C. CANBERRA 7348 (1974)

D. STATE 257920 (1974)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. SOLAR OBSERVATORY NETWORK PROPOSALS DISCUSSED IN REFTELS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON, WITH DECISION TO UPGRADE WORLDWIDE SOLAR OBSERVATORY CAPABILITIES AND BUDGET NEW OPTICAL AND RADIO TELESCOPES. A SOLAR OBSERVATORY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA WOULD SERVE AS A KEY LINK IN THE PLANNED WORLDWIDE NETWORK. PROGRAM SCHEDULE (PARA 3 BELOW) IS TIMED TO CYCLE OF MAXIMUM SOLAR ACTIVITY, AND EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED, IF APPROPRIATE, TO OBTAIN GOA APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH FACILITY. IT APPEARS THAT AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE MIGHT WISH TO PARTICIPATE, AND VIEWS OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS MENTIONED BELOW SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN PRESENTING PROPOSALS TO GOA. WHILE HOLT COMMUNICATIONS STATION IS PREFERRED LOCATION FOR INSTALLING SOLAR OBSERVATION FACILITY, ALTERNATIVE LOCATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY AIR FORCE:

2. THE BOWEN LETTER OF MAY 10, 1974 (REF A) INVITED AIR FORCE TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE SOLAR OBSERVING OPTICAL NETWORK AND THE RADIO SOLAR TELESCOPE NETWORK (SOON/RSTN) TO SIR HUGH ENNOR, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE. CONCURRENTLY, AUSTRALIAN INDICATION OF INTEREST IN A JOINTLY OPERATED EFFORT WAS EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO BOWEN FROM R.G. GIOVANELLI, CHIEF, PHYSICS DIVISION, NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY. MAIN POINTS OF GIOVANELLI LETTER, DATED APRIL 30, 1974, WERE:

A. AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PATROL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AS PROPOSED BY USAF.

B. STATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND AT LEAST PARTIALLY OPERATED BY CIVILIAN AUSTRALIANS OF THE IONOSPHERIC PREDICTION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE.

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C. ALL COSTS AND OVERHEAD (INCLUDING TRAINING, TRAVEL, BUILDINGS, ALLOWANCES, VEHICLES, ETC.) SHOULD BE MET BY THE UNITED STATES.

D. SITE LOCATION AND ACQUISITION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

3. AIR FORCE CONSIDERS GIOVANELLI LETTER AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND PROPOSES FOLLOWING SCHEDULE TO ACHIEVE AN OPERATIONAL SOON/RSTN FACILITY IN AUSTRALIA IN TIME FOR NEXT CYCLE OF MAXIMUM SOLAR ACTIVITY:

A. SOON (SOLAR OPTICAL TELESCOPE)

- (1) REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION START DATE - JUL 1976
- (2) BENEFICIAL OCCUPANCY DATE - AUG 1977
- (3) EQUIPMENT DELIVERY DATE - SEP 1977
- (4) INSTALLATION CHECKOUT/START DATE - OCT 1977

B. RSTN (RADIO SOLAR TELESCOPE)

- (1) REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION START DATE - APR 1977
- (2) BENEFICIAL OCCUPANCY DATE - AUG 1977
- (3) EQUIPMENT DELIVERY DATE - SEP 1977
- (4) INSTALLATION/CHECKOUT/START DATE - OCT 1977

4. ADDITIONALLY, SOON/RSTN FACILITIES SHOULD BE

CO-LOCATED WITH ACCESS TO GOOD TELEPHONIC AND TELETYPE COMMUNICATIONS FOR RAPID RELAY OF DATA TO CONUS. SITE SELECTION MUST CONSIDER THAT CLOUD COVERAGE DEGRADES SOON OPERATIONS, AND RSTN IS DEGRADED BY ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE. SOON REQUIRES A SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND FABRICATED BUILDING (APPROX. 1,250 SQ. FT.), WHILE AN EXISTING FACILITY (APPROX. 1,600 SQ. FT.) COULD BE MODIFIED TO HOUSE RSTN. A TECHNICAL SITE SURVEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ASSURE ADEQUACY OF SITE SELECTION. PRELIMINARY MANPOWER STUDIES INDICATE THAT A COMBINED SOON/RSTN FACILITY COULD BE OPERATED BY 16-18 PERSONNEL. USAF PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE REDUCED BY THE
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EXTENT OF AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION.

5. IF AFTER REVIEW EMBASSY FORSEES NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS, GOA APPROVAL MAY BE SOUGHT FOR A SOON/RSTN INSTALLATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PREFERABLY AT HOLT STATION. (ENNR AND GIOVANELLI SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN AUSTRALIA; BOWEN, SCIENCE ATTACHE IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE, HAS BEEN FULLY INFORMED AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO HAVE REPORTED TO AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE.) OPERATING RIGHTS WOULD BE REQUIRED THROUGH THE MID-1980S AND POSSIBLY INTO THE 1990S. IF GOA REACTION IS FAVORABLE, REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS AND ASSISTANCE REGARDING (A) FOLLOW-ON TECHNICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOA AND USAF SOLAR TECHNICIANS, (B) A SITE SURVEY TO CONFIRM ADEQUACY OF SITE SELECTION, AND (C) AN IN-COUNTRY VISIT BY A SMALL GROUP OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO EXPLORE JOINT OPERATION OF THE SOON/RSTN FACILITIES. KISSINGER

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